

NOTES ON THE ZOOLOGY OF THE SOLOMON ISLANDS, WITH  
DESCRIPTIONS OF SOME NEW BIRDS.—Part II.

By E. P. RAMSAY, F.L.S., C.M.Z.S., &c.

Having recently received a small collection of Birds from the Solomon Islands, I beg to lay before the Society a few remarks on the avifauna of that Group, with descriptions of such species as appear to me to be new. For the specimens under consideration I am chiefly indebted to Lieutenant Richards, R.N., of H.M.S. "Renard."

GRAUCALUS ELEGANS, *sp. nov.*

*Graucalus hypoleucus*, Ramsay, P.L.S., of N.S.W.

This species, so closely allied to *G. hypoleucus*, Gould, differs chiefly in having the jet black of the loreal region much broader and extending conspicuously below the eye, but does not reach the hinder margin of that organ; the bill is comparatively larger; the shoulders and wing-coverts are ashy-grey like the back; the chin and the whole of the under surface pure white, except the faintest tinge of grey across the chest; bill and legs black. Length 9 inches; wing 5·35; tail 4·5; tarsus 0·8; bill, from forehead 1·1, from gape 1·1, from nostril to tip 0·7.

*Hab.* Gaudalcanar, Solomon Islands, collected by J. Cockerell, junior.

GRAUCALUS SUBLINEATUS, *Slater*, (P.Z.S., 1879, p. 448, pl. xxxvi.)

One specimen, male, this agrees in many respects with my description of the female of *G. solomonensis* (i.e. *G. pusillus*, P.L.S. N.S.W., Vol. IV., pt. 1.), but is considerably larger and the white cross lines do not extend so far up the breast. Black cross lines show on the lower part of the abdomen, but not on the upper; the spot in front of the eyes black. Length 9·2 inches; wing 5·35; tail 4·4; tarsus 1·05; bill from forehead 0·85.

*Hab.* Solomon Islands.

## EDOLIISOMA SP.

? *Graucalus monotonus*, Tristram, Ibis, 1879, p. 441.

*Edoliisoma marescotii*, Ramsay, P.L.S., N.S.W., IV. p. 71.

We have a male of this species of *Edoliisoma*, which agrees well with Mr. Tristram's description of *Graucalus monotonus*. It is of a uniform dark slaty-blue, wings and tail black, inner margin of the webs of the wing-quills below ashy-brown at the base, outer webs of primaries and secondaries like the back—centre tail feathers brownish, tip black; outer feather on either side margined at the tip with an ashy tint.

The female, cinnamon-brown on the head, hind-neck, and back; wings black, broadly margined with cinnamon-rufous on both webs above and below, the tail of a richer tint of cinnamon, shaded near the centre of the inner webs towards the base with ashy, lores and a spot behind the eye blackish-brown; chin, throat, under wing and tail-coverts and the rest of the under surface light cinnamon rufous.

*Female*.—Total length 8·3; wing 4·3; tail 3·7; tarsus 0·95; bill 0·95 inch.

*Male*.—Total length 8·3; wing 4·4; tail 3·6; tarsus 0·9; bill 1· inch.

It is not improbable that this is the *Edoliisoma salomonis* of Tristram, (Ibis 1879, p. 440), and that the description has been taken from an immature specimen of a female.

SYMMORPHUS AFFINIS, Tristram, (Ibis, 1879, p. 440.)

This specimen, a female, seems to be identical with the "*Lalage sp.*" mentioned in my paper on the Birds of the New Hebrides, (P.L.S. of N.S.W., Vol. III., p. 338) the uropygium is however all white, but it has less white on the tips of the tail feathers.

PIEZORHYNCHUS RICHARDSII, *sp. nov.*

All the upper surface of the body, wings, and tail black, wings and tail below blackish-brown, the breast and all the under

surface cinnamon rufous; the throat, chin, chest, lores, the forehead, and earcoverts black; eyelashes black; the occiput, nape, and hind-neck, and a ring round the eye white; the white from the hind-neck extending on to the sides of the neck, but not meeting on the throat. Bill blue, legs and feet black. Total length 5·7; wing 2·95; tail 2·55; tarsus 0·7; bill from forehead 0·7.

*Hab.* Island of Ugi.

This very distinct and beautiful species I propose to dedicate to my friend Lieut. Richards, R.N., who has done much to add to our knowledge of the Birds of the Pacific.

RHIPIDURA RUBROFRONTATA, Ramsay.

*R. russata*, Tristram, Ibis 1879, p. 440.

On comparing the type with others recently received, I find that the original specimen is not quite adult; the rufous chestnut of the back extends up to the hind-neck, covering the interscapular region; the black of the chest is reduced to a semilunar pectoral band, the breast is of a clearer white, and the flanks and abdomen are slightly tinged with rufous; the centre two tail feathers are not, or but very slightly tipped with white.

This bird was described by me under the specific name of *rubrofrontata*, and not as quoted by Count. Salvadori, *rufrofronta*. I do not hold myself responsible for printers' errors or for the digest of my paper sent to Nature. This species is undoubtedly the same as Mr. Tristram's *R. russata*, my type specimen not being quite adult.

PACHYCEPHALA CHRYSOPHORI, Tristram, Ibis 1879, p. 441.

This is a good species, smaller than *P. astrolabi* (vel *P. oriolooides*) and quite different in the females. *P. oriolooides* has a black line bordering the lower mandible, and head *jet black* above.

MYZOMELA TRISTRAMI, *sp. nov.*

*M. pammelana*, Tristram, (*nec.* Sclater) Ibis 1879, p. 439.

Adult male. A fine species above the average size, and of a uniform jet black colour, slightly shining; on the under surface of the wing the primaries show a margin of ashy white on their inner webs, which is widest at the base and does not extend to the tips of the feathers; the legs and feet black, the bill long and strong, curved, yellowish horn-colour, with the tip only black. Total length 4·8 to 5 inches; wing 2·7; tail 1·95; tarsus 0·8.

The young and the adult females have the under wing-coverts whitish, and the under surface more or less mixed with dull brown.

This species is probably the *Myzomela pammelæna*, mentioned by Mr. Tristram, (Ibis 1879, p. 439.) although that gentleman does not mention the *yellow bill*, which is not a sign of immaturity, as might be supposed, both adult males and females, as well as the young show this peculiarity. I have seen a smaller species, with a jet-black and more slender bill, from the South-east end of New Guinea.

#### MYZOMELA PULCHERRIMA, *sp. nov.*

The whole of the head, neck, chest, breast and sides of the body as far down as the flanks, the central portion of the interscapular region, back, rump, and upper tail-coverts rich deep crimson; a spot in front of the eye, the lower part of the flanks, central portion of the abdomen, under tail-coverts, wings and tail above and below, and the upper wing-coverts, black; the basal portion of the inner webs of the primaries and secondaries below of an ashy tint, under wing-coverts blackish-brown. Total length 4·9; wing 2·6; tail 1·75; tarsus 0·7; bill from forehead 0·85.

*Hab.* Ugi, Solomon Islands.

This species comes near *M. cardinalis* and *M. nigriventris*, (Peale) but is quite distinct from either, chiefly in extent of the scarlet on the under surface of the body, which reaches nearly to the thighs, it is also quite distinct from *M. rubratra*, (Less.)

*TEPHRAS OLIVACEUS, sp. nov.*

*Adult male*.—General colour above uniform dull brown, washed with olive, the forehead and sides of the face of a smoky-brown tint; the wings and tail blackish-brown, washed with olive on the outer webs of the feathers, the inner webs of the quills and axillaries below margined with white, or ashy-white; the throat, chest, sides, and flanks washed with light ashy-brown, becoming almost white on the abdomen, and under tail-coverts; bill and legs black.

There is no trace of white round the eye, the bill is long and pointed; the tail not rounded; the first and sixth primary quills are equal, and the third is equal in length to the fourth. Total length (skin) 4·6 inches; wing 2·7; tail 1·93; tarsus 0·77. Bill from forehead 0·6.

*Hab.* Solomon Islands.

This is the second species of this interesting genus *Tephras*,\* now known, and closely allied to the genus *Zosterops*.

*NASITERNA FINSCHII, sp. nov.*

The whole of the plumage of a rich grass-green, paler on the abdomen; on the lower parts of the cheeks round the base of the lower mandibles the feathers are tinged with light greenish-blue; under tail-coverts light rich yellow; tail feathers blackish, outer webs green, the inner webs with a spot of bright yellow at the tip, decreasing in size to the fourth quill on either side; the centre two feathers bluish-green, shafts black. Length 3·8 inches; wing 2·4; tail 1·25; tarsus 0·35; first toe (s.u.) 0·6; short hind toe (s.u.) 0·3.

*Hab.* St. Christoval. Sex ♀?

This species comes near to the female *N. keiensis*, but has no trace of the yellow on the forehead which is green, uniform with the rest of the body, there is no black spot on the outer tail feathers.

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\**Hartlaub and Finsch, P.Z.S., 1868, p. 6, pl. 3.*

## LORIUS CARDINALIS,

Specimens have been obtained by Baron N. de M.-Maclay at the Rongador Reef, 100 East of the Solomon Islands. The specimens were caught on the rigging of the schooner "Saidie F. Caller."

Count Salvadori, has intimated that my *Rhipidura Cockerelli*, is not a good species (see Ibis 1880, p. 129.) hinting that it might be an accidental variety of *Sauloprocta tricolor*. I do hope that after handling some hundreds of specimens of *S. tricolor* in all its varieties, I am not likely to mistake a bird so very distinct; has Count Salvadori compared my description with *S. tricolor* and *S. motacilloides*?

The same remarks are applicable to his note on my *Astur soloensis*, as being identical with *A. etorques*, of which latter I have seen over fifty skins from New Ireland and the Duke of York Group, &c. Living in a country where few works of reference are to be had, I am always glad to be set right as to matters of nomenclature, but I think my learned friends at the antipodes should wait until they have seen the specimens in question, or at least carefully compare the descriptions before expressing an opinion contrary to that of the author who has had the specimens before him.

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 ON SOME NEW AUSTRALIAN MARINE ISOPODA—Part II.

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[Plates III. and IV.]

FAMILY IDOTEIDÆ.

Genus IDOTEA.

*Idotea caudacuta*, *sp. nov.*, Plate IV., fig. 4.

Length of body about three and two-thirds the greatest breadth. Head nearly twice as broad as long, front deeply concave.